(e) the steps being taken to implement these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) The Patents Act, 1970 has recently been amended by the Patents (Amendment) Act, 2005 notified on April 05, 2005. No proposal to further amend the said Act is under consideration.

Incentives to States producing export quality tea

†2353. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any special scheme for giving incentives to the States which produce tea suitable for exports;

(b) the details of assistance being provided to various States under this scheme;

(c) whether Uttaranchal has sent any proposal for special assistance for revival of old areas of tea production and extension of new areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) A new scheme has been approved by the Government for providing incentive to the tea producers for producing more orthodox teas. This scheme, which became effective from 1st January, 2005 will remain in force upto 31st March, 2007. The total outlay earmarked for the scheme is Rs. 65 crores.

The scheme is expected to help the industry in changing the product mix to suit the demands of the export market. India is essentially a CTC tea producer whereas there is greater demand for orthodox tea in the international market. In order to induce the producers to produce more orthodox teas, incentive will be given at the rate of Rs. 3 per kg for leaf grades and Rs. 2 per kg. for dust grade orthodox teas. An additional subsidy at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg. will be provided for the incremental volume of orthodox tea produced.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) No fresh proposal has been received from Uttaranchal seeking special assistance. However, Tea Board has been extending financial assistance towards setting up of nucleus plantations in Kumaun Hills and also establishing a Research and Development Unit in Pant Nagar University.

Bilateral trade with Sri Lanka

2354. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) with the present $ 1.8 billion bilateral trade between India and Sri Lanka as a result of Free Trade Agreement, what are the projections for this bilateral trade for the year 2005 and 2006, especially when a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement was negotiated in the sixth session of Sri Lanka-India Joint Commission held recently;

(b) what is the quantum of trade for diversified items and the traditional items during the last two years;

(c) whether development projects in power, education and allied fields give further fillip to our ongoing trade; and

(d) if so, any broad projections thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) During the year 2004-05, the total trade between India and Sri Lanka was US $ 1717.00 million, 17% higher as compared to US $ 1514.84 million for 2003-04. For the year 2005 and 2006, projections for bilateral trade are estimated to be more than the current rate of growth, likely to be in vicinity of 15%-20%. Both countries are in the process of negotiating Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) covering goods, services and investment. The Third Technical Level Talks on CEPA are scheduled to be held in the third week of August, 2005.

(b) The major items exported to Sri Lanka are petroleum products, transport equipment, cotton yarn, made-ups, sugar, machinery and